

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 2-4, 6-11 and 14 without prejudice. Please add new Claims 15-17.

Please amend the claims as shown below. This Listing of Claims will replace prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing device comprising:
calculating means for calculating a highlight point and a shadow point of an image from a histogram of the image;
~~detecting means for detecting whether a specific object is included in an input image;~~
setting means for setting a target highlight point and a target shadow point correction parameter based on photographic information of the image;
~~detection result; and~~
first generating means for generating a gradation correction based on the highlight point, the shadow point, the target highlight point and the target shadow point;
detecting means for detecting a face region in the image;
second generating means for generating an exposure correction based on a histogram of the face region; and
correcting means for correcting the input image based on the gradation correction and the exposure by using the set correction parameter.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising ~~the steps of:~~
calculating a highlight point and a shadow point of an image from a histogram of the image;
~~creating a histogram of an input image;~~

~~generating~~setting a first gradation correction based on the highlight point
~~and the shadow point~~correcting condition in accordance with the histogram;
detecting a face region in the image;
calculating a representative luminance of the detected face region;
~~correcting the input image by using the gradation correcting condition;~~
~~extracting a specific object region from the corrected input image;~~
~~creating a histogram of the specific object region that has been extracted;~~
setting a target luminance based on the representative luminance
~~second gradation correcting condition in accordance with the histogram of the~~
~~specific object region that has been created; and~~
generating an exposure correction based on the representative luminance
and the target luminance; and
correcting the image based on the gradation correction and the exposure
correction~~in the specific object region by using the set second gradation~~
~~correcting condition.~~

6-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:
calculating a highlight point and a shadow point of an image from a
histogram of the image;
~~detecting step for detecting whether a specific object is included in an~~
~~input image;~~
~~setting step for setting a~~target highlight point and a target shadow point
~~correction parameter based on photographic information of the image~~the
~~detection result; and~~
generating a gradation correction based on the highlight point, the shadow
point, the target highlight point and the target shadow point;
detecting a face region in the image;
generating an exposure correction based on a histogram of the face
region; and

~~correcting step for correcting the input image based on the gradation correction and the exposure correction by using the set correction parameter.~~

13. (Currently Amended) An image processing ~~system~~device comprising:
first calculating means for calculating a highlight point and a shadow point of an image from a histogram of the image;

~~means for generating a histogram of an input image;~~

first generating means for generating setting a first gradation correction
~~correcting condition based on the highlight point and the shadow point histogram;~~

detecting means for detecting a face region in the image;

second calculating means for calculating a representative luminance of the detected face region;

~~means for correcting the input image by using the gradation correcting condition;~~

~~—— means for extracting a specific object region from the corrected input image;~~

~~—— means for creating a histogram of the specific object region that has been extracted;~~

setting means for setting a target luminance based on the representative luminance
~~second gradation correcting condition in accordance with the histogram of the specific object region; and~~

second generating means for generating an exposure correction based on the representative luminance and the target luminance; and

correcting means for correcting the image based on the gradation correction and the exposure correction
~~in the specific object region by using the set second gradation correcting condition.~~

14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) The image processing device according to claim 1, wherein the photographic information includes a usage or non-usage of a flash and a range of an in-focus position.

16. (New) The image processing device according to claim 1, further comprising rotating means for rotating the image in accordance with a posture in the photographic information.

17. (New) The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the second generating means calculates a γ value based on the representative luminance and the target luminance.